

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BAMAKO 00745 021149Z

14
ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 OMB-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 /082 W
----- 086936

P R 011756Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3366
INFO USMISSION UN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BAMAKO 745

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ML, PR, UN
SUBJ: MALI AND PUERTO RICO

REF: STATE 49329

1. WHILE REFTTEL STATES THAT POSTS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY DEPT., I BELIEVE SITUATION IN MALI REQUIRES THAT I CALL ON PRESIDENT TRAORE NOW. PUERTO RICO IS THE SINGLE, MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN U.S.-MALIAN RELATIONS, ONE THAT THIS EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED REPEATEDLY WITH KEY MALIAN LEADERS SINCE THE VOTE IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 LAST AUGUST 20.

2. MALIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAD GIVEN US REASON TO BELIEVE THEY WOULD ABSTAIN ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE, BUT OUR SHARP DIFFERENCES OVER ANGOLA HAVE SET US BACK ON PUERTO RICO. WE KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT THE RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE IS DIVIDED ON THIS ISSUE. I BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT I SHOULD CALL ON THE PRESIDENT, EXPLAIN TO HIM THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE AND URGE THAT, WHEN IT ARISES IN THE U.N., MALI ABSTAIN. HE WILL BE IN CONAKRY FOR A DAY OR TWO BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE HIM LATER THIS WEEK OR EARLY NEXT WEEK.

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IF I DO NOT SEE HIM NOW, WE RUN THE RISK OF HAVING HIM

OUT OF THE COUNTRY-AS HE WAS LAST AUGUST-AT THE
CRUCIAL MOMENT. SINCE THE FOREIGN OFFICE HERE COMMUNICATES
WITH ITS U.N. MISSION BY AIRMAIL WE SHOULD MOVE QUICKLY.

3. I WOULD NOT INTEND TO MAKE PUERTO RICO THE SOLE
OSTENSIBLE REASON FOR MY CALL, BUT I CAN PLAUSIBLY USE
THE FACT THAT I AM SHORTLY RETURNING TO THE U.S. FOR
CONSULTATION AS A BASIS FOR REQUESTING AN AUDIENCE FOR
A GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON. I WOULD PLAN TO SURVEY THE
BROAD SCOPE OF PROBLEMS, INCLUDING KOREA AND ANGOLA, BUT
WOULD IN FACT PLACE MOST EMPHASIS ON PUERTO RICO.

4. IF DEPT. HAS ANY FURTHER SUGGESTIONS I WOULD APPRECIATE
HEARING PROMPTLY.
MCGUIRE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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